
**IMPLANTABLE CARDIOVERTER DEFIBRILLATOR
WITH SWITCHABLE POWER SOURCE
AND PATIENT WARNING SYSTEM**

5

ABSTRACT

10 A system and method are provided for using a multiple cell power
supply in an implantable medical device such as an implantable
cardioverter defibrillator. In a two-cell battery network, a higher energy
density cell continuously charges a lower density cell, and the lower
density cell provides the current needed for device functions. A current
15 sensor detects the current flowing between the two cells. If the current
deviates from an acceptable normal range, one battery cell is failing. The
battery network is then reconfigured by opening and closing intervening
switches such that the failing cell is eliminated and the remaining cell
continues to power device functions. Upon eliminating a failing battery
20 cell, a patient warning signal is issued.

20